

**OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING
RECLAMATION AND ENFORCEMENT**

Annual Evaluation Summary Report

For The

North Dakota Public Service Commission

Regulatory Program



Evaluation Year 2006

(July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2006)

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(Cover photo: Wetlands on the Center Mine)

I. Introduction

The Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (SMCRA) created the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSM) in the Department of the Interior. SMCRA provides authority to OSM to oversee the implementation of and provide Federal funding for State regulatory programs that have been approved by OSM as meeting the minimum standards specified by SMCRA. This report contains summary information regarding the North Dakota Program and the effectiveness of the North Dakota program in meeting the applicable purposes of SMCRA as specified in Section 102. This report covers the period of July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2006. Detailed background information and comprehensive reports for the program elements evaluated during the period are available for review and copying at the Casper OSM Office.

The following list of acronyms are used in this report:

CFO	Casper OSM Office
CO	Cessation Order
GIS	Geographic Information System
GPS	Global Positioning System
NDAC	North Dakota Administrative Code (Rules)
NDCC	North Dakota Century Code (Statute)
NOV	Notice of Violation
OSM	Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement
OTT	Office of Technology Transfer
PSC	North Dakota Public Service Commission
SMCRA	Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977
TIPS	Technical Information Processing System
TDN	Ten-Day Notice
WR	Western Region
WRTT	Western Regional Technical Team

II. Overview of the North Dakota Coal Mining Industry

The coalfields in North Dakota are located in the Williston Basin, which is part of the Great Plains Coal Province. They underlie approximately 40 percent of the State's surface area. Most of the coal is produced commercially from two mining districts located in the western part of the State: (1) Beulah-Zap and (2) Hagel. Recoverable coal reserves in North Dakota are generally classified as lignite, which is characterized by low heating value (6,600 BTU), average high moisture content (40 per cent) and low sulfur content (less than 1.0 per cent). The mineable beds in the Williston Basin vary in thickness from three to 30 feet; economic stripping ratios range from 1.5:1 to 11:1. All active mines in North Dakota are currently large-scale surface mines that provide coal for mine-mouth or regional electrical generation facilities and a nearby coal gasification facility.

The first commercial mine in North Dakota opened in Morton County in 1873. As the railroad developed across the State, demand for coal increased and was supplied by underground mines. North Dakota was one of the first states to shift from underground to large-scale commercial surface mining. By 1927, 40 per cent of the State's production was by surface mining methods, compared with 2 per cent for the nation. By 1959, eighty six per cent of North Dakota's coal production was from surface mines, and since 1966, the State's total production has been derived from this mining method. In 1884, North Dakota produced 35 thousand tons of lignite; in 2005 it produced 30.01 million tons (Table 1) using modern surface mining methods and equipment.

Coal mining in North Dakota is concentrated around the western half of the State. This area consists of approximately 28,000 square miles, and has an estimated total resource of 350 billion tons of coal, or about two-thirds of the total lignite reserves of the United States. North Dakota has a demonstrated recoverable coal reserve base of 35 billion tons. North Dakota enacted its first reclamation law in 1969 and major revisions to that law followed in 1973 and 1975. A new law was enacted by North Dakota in 1979 that is consistent with SMCRA.

North Dakota mines provide direct employment for approximately 3960 people in five counties with another 20,000 people indirectly employed but affected by the lignite industry, which has an annual payroll of over \$265 million. However, the coal industry's substantial impact on the State's population and economy has secondary in-state multiplier effects, since most of the State's coal production also fuels electric power generation plants within North Dakota that supply most of the State's electrical needs.

III. Overview of the Public Participation Opportunities in the Oversight Process and the State Program

The North Dakota coal reclamation and enforcement program allows for and encourages public input and participation throughout the program. The North Dakota Public Service Commission (PSC) is the State agency charged with the responsibility for the permitting and regulation of the coal mining industry in North Dakota. OSM's programmatic reviews of the North Dakota program indicate that the PSC is adhering to the State's policies and procedures regarding opportunities for public participation in all phases of their reclamation program.

IV. Major Accomplishments/Issues/Innovations in the (State) Program

The North Dakota Public Service Commission (PSC) continues to administer a very efficient and successful coal regulatory program as set forth in Section 102 of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977. North Dakota's permanent regulatory program has been in-place since 1980.

North Dakota's regulatory program is handled by a relatively small number of staff (Table 8) considering the amount of land mined and reclaimed each year. Reclamation Division staff members that review permit and revision applications also carry out the compliance inspections and evaluate bond release applications. This allows staff to remain very familiar with the ongoing field operations and approved mining and reclamation plans. The PSC has a very good working relationship with their customers that include industry, landowners, citizen groups, and other governmental agencies, including OSM. The Reclamation Division carries out its duties using the appropriate technical expertise and with

a high level of professionalism.

The high quality of mine land reclamation is one of the most notable aspects of the North Dakota coal regulatory program. This is reflected in the number of national Excellence in Surface Mining and Reclamation awards that North Dakota mines have received. Since the program was initiated in 1986, North Dakota mines have received fourteen national reclamation awards. The sense of environmental responsibility on the part of mining companies is also reflected in the minimal violations that have been occurred in the past.

The PSC continues to encourage mining companies to file bond release applications as reclaimed land becomes eligible for release at the end of the ten-year revegetation responsibility period. Over 6000 acres of reclaimed lands that were subject to North Dakota's permanent regulatory program have received final bond release. All of the post-SMCRA acreages at the former Indian Head and Velva Mines have been totally bond released. Reclaimed lands that have received final bond release under the permanent program include lands reclaimed to cropland, hayland, native grassland, tame pastureland, woodland, permanent impoundments, industrial, recreational and residential use.

To keep a strong focus on bond release and for workload planning purposes, the Reclamation Division is meeting annually with each of the major mining companies in North Dakota to discuss specific plans that they have for submitting final bond release applications. Annual mine maps are used to identify possible bond release areas based on reclaimed tracts that are nearing the end of the minimum ten-year revegetation liability period. These discussions also include the specific methods that are or will be used to collect the vegetative data needed for final bond release.

The Reclamation Division continues to encourage and works closely with mining companies on the submittal of permit related applications in an electronic format. All four active permits for the Falkirk Mine are in an electric format and as well as two large active permits areas for the Freedom Mine. A pending revision application for the Beulah Mine converts one of their two active permits to an electronic format. All of the premine environmental resource information, detailed mining and reclamation plans and other information for the permit areas are contained on CD or DVD. This information is then copied to the PSC's computer network where staff members have access to the entire permits from their desktop PC's.

The Reclamation Division has also scanned and converted many of its paper documents to electronic files. This includes historic inspection reports, annual mine maps, surface and ground water monitoring reports, and wildlife monitoring reports. Most of these reports and many other documents are now filed electronically. Most incoming correspondence is also scanned and filed electronically using a structure that is very similar to the paper filing system.

The Reclamation Division is developing a Geographic Information System (GIS) to track mining and reclamation activities and conduct technical analysis of plans and data provided by the mining companies. Information entered into the GIS for several mines include recent high altitude air photos, permit boundaries, roads, stockpile locations, ponds and related features. Information for many final bond release tracts also has been entered. Much of this information is being loaded onto tablet PC's equipped with GPS receivers that inspectors use when carrying out mine inspections. This allows for accurate tracking and recording of activities during mine inspections.

Development of the GIS will be an ongoing project and the PSC plans to eventually link the GIS to an agency-wide integrated database and workflow system that is under development. OSM's Office of Technology Transfer (OTT) in the WRCC and TIPS have provided very valuable assistance with the GIS and mobile computing initiatives. The Reclamation Division also hosted an OTT New Technologies Workshop in May 2006 where overviews of the GIS, mobile computing, and other technological advancements were discussed with representatives from other western states and OSM.

The Reclamation Division has been able to move forward with these initiatives while ensuring the necessary mine inspections are conducted and timely action is taken on applications. However, this will be a greater challenge in the next year or so since two long time staff members recently retired. Considerable time will be spent training new staff members on the details of the coal regulatory program and having them become familiar with the mining and reclamation activities.

Reclamation Division staff are also working with and assisting the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) on procedures for mapping and classifying reclaimed soils. A pilot project at one of the mines is currently underway and NRCS plans to complete the mapping of all currently reclaimed lands by mid 2007. These soil maps will be an important tool for individuals that farm reclaimed croplands and they will be used to develop conservation practices that may be needed to comply with federal farm programs.

Overall, North Dakota has an excellent coal regulatory program, and staff at the PSC continue to implement the program in a highly professional, cooperative, and fair manner. The Reclamation Division uses new technology to become more efficient and make information more readily available to the public. The PSC has the necessary technical expertise for carrying out its functions to ensure that all of the requirements of SMCRA are met.

V. **Success in Achieving the Purposes of SMCRA as Determined by Measuring and Reporting End Results**

To further the concept of reporting end results, the findings from performance standard and public participation evaluations are being collected for a national perspective in terms of the number and extent of observed off-site impacts, the number of acres that have been mined and reclaimed and which meet the bond release requirements for the various phases of reclamation, and the effectiveness of customer service provided by the State. Individual topic reports are available in the Casper Field Office which provides additional details on how the following evaluations and measurements were conducted.

A. **Off-Site Impacts:**

For the purpose of oversight, an off-site impact is defined as anything resulting from a surface coal mining and reclamation activity or operation that causes a negative effect on people, land, water, or structures. The State program must regulate or control either the mining or reclamation activity, or the resulting off-site impact. In addition, the impact on the resource must be substantiated and be related to mining and reclamation activity. It must be outside the area authorized by the permit for conducting mining and reclamation activities. The CFO reviewed the following aspects of the North Dakota Program to identify any off-site impacts.

Several sources of information have been selected for identifying off site impacts. These include but are not limited to: State and OSM inspection reports, enforcement actions, civil penalty assessments, citizens complaints, special studies and information from other environmental agencies. If an off site impact is identified, the sources of information and the basis used to identify and report these impacts will be clearly recorded. Field evaluations for off site impacts were conducted during routine inspections by both North Dakota and CFO.

Table 4 in this annual report records the number and type of off site impacts.

B. Reclamation Success:

OSM evaluated the effectiveness of the State program based on the number of acres that have received bond release (Table 5). The CFO determined that the State program is effective in its goal of having all disturbed lands reclaimed to the approved postmining land use. Exhibit A and Tables 5 and 6 catalogue the acreage of land released from bond for Phase I, II and III. The CFO and PSC reviewed the acres disturbed and the acres reclaimed on a statewide and mine site-specific basis (Table 6). Reclamation in North Dakota is occurring as contemporaneously as practicable. The CFO will continue to report "Reclamation Success" and inventory the status of disturbed lands (Table 6) in future annual reports.

EXHIBIT A

North Dakota Final Bond Releases for Lands Permitted or Re-permitted after July 1, 1979

(as of June 30, 2006)

Final Bond	Release Acres	Undisturbed	Crop-land	Hay-land	Native		Tame		Wildlife/		Trees / Wood-land	Ponds	Residential
					Grass-land	Hay-land	Grass-land	Hay-land	Recreation	Industrial			
Mine													
Beulah	655	50	266	-	1	-	-	-	337	-	1	-	-
Center	404	11	-	51	90	-	-	-	252	-	-	-	-
Falkirk	266	3	-	-	-	-	-	165	82	-	-	-	16
Freedom	823	167	-	-	-	-	-	367	289	-	-	-	-
Gascoyne	753	167	52	-	-	-	-	-	534	-	-	-	-
Glenharold	876	251	-	-	122	-	-	123	372	3	5	-	-
IndianHead**	3,085	710	895	281	1,040	17	-	-	118	6	18	-	-
Larson	613	313	159	2	-	-	-	-	53	1	5	-	-
New Leipzig**	35	10	-	25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Royal Oak-JK	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	-	-	-	-
Royal Oak	257	20	79	-	-	-	-	-	158	-	-	-	-
Velva**	802	415	94	-	277	-	-	-	-	14	2	-	-
Totals	8,579	2,117	1,545	359	1,530	17	655	2,205	24	31	16		

** All reclaimed lands have received final bond release

C. Customer Service

One of the requirements of a regulatory authority for reclamation programs implemented under SMCRA is to develop and encourage open communication not only with the industry being regulated, but also the citizenry and communities in the coalfields around the mines. To accomplish this requirement, SMCRA programs must involve the public in all phases of coal mine permitting. North Dakota's program provides for public involvement of permitting actions when a new application is received, when a permit is renewed, when any significant permit revision is proposed and when a phase of reclamation is completed to the point of requesting bond release from a tract. The provisions of the North Dakota program that extensively describe these procedures can be found at sections NDCC 38-14.1-18 and NDAC 69-05.2-10 and 69-05.2-12

During this evaluation period, OSM conducted a review of several permits involving the above mentioned actions to determine if the public had been afforded adequate opportunity to participate in the permitting process. PSC files were reviewed to determine if these actions had been advertised in the local newspapers for four consecutive weeks, all landowners, mineral owners and adjacent landowners had been notified individually and that all parties of interest in bond release actions had been notified and offered the opportunity to participate in the bond release inspection.

Our review indicated that all the necessary documentation addressing these points of communication with the public were included in the files and were adequate to meet the requirements of the program. It is also important to note that in the documentation reviewed, there was no real opposition to the proposed permitting actions and there was participation by affected parties in the bond release inspections. These actions indicate that the PSC is effectively implementing its program and that the coalfield communities in North Dakota are informed and involved to the extent allowable in the coal mine reclamation within the state.

VI. OSM Assistance

TIPS supported the state of North Dakota by providing software upgrades, and submitting requests for hardware and equipment. TIPS provided \$1200 towards repairing the ND scanner and purchase of a Trimble GeoXT Ruggedized Hand Held GPS device and TerraSync Professional Software. TIPS provided support for North Dakota staff to attend the 2005 ESRI User's conference.

North Dakota Public Service Commission staff continue to participate in the technological advances, exchanging electronic information with their industries, converting non-electronic documents to electronic format, and developing a GIS for managing data and technical evaluations, including bond release. PSC staff also served as reviewers of the Mine Blasting Modules sponsored by OTT.

North Dakota staff made significant contributions to the new technologies workshops conducted by OTT this year by attending, participating, and sharing their expertise. Three North Dakota staff attended the Sheridan Western Regional Technical Team (WRTT) New Technologies Workshop.

The New Technologies Innovations Implementation Workshop in Bismarck was co-sponsored by the North Dakota Public Service Commission and showcased State achievements in mobile computing, GIS and electronic permitting. In all, eleven PSC staff members attended, and nine of those made technical presentations on the evolving role of information technology in the North Dakota coal regulatory program; Integrating ArcSDE, SQL Server and Sybase into a GIS supported enterprise database; a progress report; Development of GIS based annual mine map library; DIY Systems Analysis – an essential first step for integrated IT systems and enterprise level GIS; MS Excel as a systems analysis design tool; GPS and mobile computing implementation in ND; Development of a Protocol to Soil Survey Reclaimed Mine Land in North Dakota; Planned GIS enhancement of an AML mine inventory; Managing large data sets to support GIS; GIS management and evaluation of mine revegetation data for bond release and postmortem assessment; An ArcGIS project for a small mine in final reclamation. North Dakota staff also provided two e-posters on: GIS-based groundwater flow system modeling to support PHC prediction, CHIA, and economic development; and Sub-regional climatic zonation patterns for hydrologic and bond release assessment.

Representatives from the North Dakota Water Commission, Geological Survey, and Informational Technology Department also presented at the workshop providing insight into the cooperation and GIS support throughout the North Dakota State agencies. They provided presentations on the North Dakota Water Resource Information Management System; NDGS. Cartographic production utilizing ArcGIS; and The North Dakota GIS Hub: Sharing data with GIS Web Services. The workshop featured three evening sessions and one afternoon session on using GIS data in ArcGIS provided by Entrada San/Juan, Inc. all of which were very well attended by workshop participants from other WRTT states and the mining industry representatives from the state of North Dakota. In addition, the Reclamation Division organized a visit to the Falkirk Mine where mine staff showcased their implementation of GIS and mobile computing using tablet computers.

To support North Dakotas technical initiatives, OTT provided contract technical assistance in the GIS Support area, as provided by Entrada/San Juan, Inc. in the topics of: SDE Data Loading; USGS Seamless Digital Terrain Acquisition and Management; Surface Hydrologic Modeling; Groundwater Hydrologic Modeling; Subsurface Stratigraphic Modeling; Regional Weather Modeling; and SSURGO Soil Modeling, and a site visit on October 2005. Entrada/San Juan also provided a workshop presentation titled: “3D modeling of Montana groundwater information”. OTT provided North Dakota with six HP Compaq Tablet PC’s and six HP Intel 802.11b/g wLAN modules for use with the tablet’s. During the next evaluation period, OTT will be providing North Dakota with a software upgrade for the SQL server.

OSM’s Technical Librarian provided 15 journal article reprints to the North Dakota SRA staff members. In addition North Dakota received over 41 technical publications, CD’s and informational references. In addition, OTT provided notification that a copy of public domain software, HC-GRAM (Hydro-Chemical Graphic Representation Analysis Methods) version 3.1.1 (running in windows environment with a help tutorial) was placed on its web site www.ott.wrcc.osmre.gov, under the heading of Guidelines, Handbooks, Manuals, and Public Domain Software.

During the evaluation period, staff from the Reclamation Division attended two NTTP training courses. One attended the Soils and Revegetation course and the other attended the Coalfield Communications course. With regard to TIPS training, three courses were attended by on person each. These were

Advanced Topics for Reclamation and Permitting using SurvCADD, ArcGIS 9.0 Spatial Analysis for Mining and Reclamation, and Introduction to Remote Sensing & Photogrammetry for Permitting & Inspection.

VII. General Oversight Topic Reviews

A. Program Amendments

Overall, the PSC has kept its program in compliance with SMCRA and any changes to the counterpart Federal regulations. The North Dakota program has been maintained in a contemporaneous and professional manner. During this evaluation period, North Dakota had two active program amendments under review by OSM. The first amendment consisted of statutory changes made to the North Dakota Century Code by the 2005 Legislature which address changes to North Dakota's notice requirements for bond release applications. These changes were approved by OSM. The second amendment package pertained to data requirements for proving reclamation success and success standards for counting trees and shrubs. This package is still currently under review by OSM.

North Dakota does an excellent job of keeping OSM informed of any proposed changes to its program. Their informal process allows for input from industry, citizen groups, the general public and other agencies like OSM, prior to formalized rulemaking. Any issues or problems with the proposed rule changes can then be identified and dealt with early in the process, making the formal program changes proceed through the rulemaking process easier and more efficiently.

B. Inspection and Enforcement

The North Dakota Public Service Commission continues to conduct frequent and thorough inspections. North Dakota conducted 127 complete inspections and 534 partial inspections, exceeding the required number of inspections on all permits during the evaluation year. The Casper Field Office conducted one complete random sample inspection and one partial / focused inspection of coal mining operations in North Dakota.

North Dakota inspection reports are complete, accurately document site conditions and mine activity, and give the status of any violations. The reports have continuity with previous reports. All performance standards were reviewed and documented during complete inspections and the reports contain a discussion of the current mine status. Each partial inspection report documents mining and reclamation activities, performance standards and permit requirements that were reviewed, as well as those portions of the mine that were inspected.

The PSC maintains an inspectable units list and an inspection database sufficient to meet its program requirements.

The PSC issued one NOV and no CO's during this evaluation period. No pattern of violation exists. No-show cause hearings or alternative enforcement actions occurred during this evaluation period.

The CFO did not issue any enforcement actions (NOV, CO) during this review period. No TDN's were sent to the State.

C. Differential Settling

The intent of this effort is to establish a process by which OSM and PSC will continue to evaluate differential settlement features on reclaimed lands and to determine the extent that they may interfere with the postmining land use, especially cropland.

Reclamation Division staff have reviewed high altitude aerial photos taken in the summer of 2005 to determine the approximate number and size of these features on reclaimed lands at each of the four large active mines. The location of settling features have been noted on maps of each mine and the total acreage of the noted features was estimated. Some field reviews were carried out in the spring of 2006 to verify the mapped features and to otherwise note characteristics of these features. Areas where settling feature repair work was carried out by the mining companies in the fall of 2005 and the spring of 2006 were also noted.

CFO staff during oversight will review the maps prepared by the Reclamation Division and accompany PSC staff during future field reviews to verify a sampling of the settling features that are noted on the aerial photos. Future reviews will also be carried out to determine if the settling features prevent spring planting or otherwise interfere with farming activities on reclaimed cropland.

By the end of the review period, Reclamation Division staff had also reviewed the appropriate permits at one large mine to determine the number and approximate acreage of premine temporary wetlands on lands that have been mined through and reclaimed. A preliminary comparison of this acreage to that of the approximate acreage of the settling features found that the total acreage of settling features was less than that of premine temporary wetlands in these areas. Similar reviews and comparisons will also be carried out at the other three active mines during the next oversight review period.

It must be noted that some of the settlement features that hold water for a short period of time (usually in the spring following snowmelt runoff) will be allowed to remain to replace ephemeral and temporary wetlands that existed prior to mining.

As a general observation of the reviews conducted to date, it appears the total number of differential settling features on reclaimed lands at the two largest mines in North Dakota exceed the number of premine temporary wetlands. However, the total acreage of these settling features appears to be less than that of the premine temporary wetlands on the same lands. Also, it appears the acreage of some designed wetlands on reclaimed lands may be greater than proposed in the design plans. Additional reviews will be conducted in future years to check this issue more closely.

The CFO and PSC will continue to review reclaimed lands for differential settlement features that may interfere with the approved postmining land use. As necessary, the PSC will require the mine operators to repair such features that prevent the normal farming activities or that otherwise pose a problem for the land use that has been approved. This topic will continue to be reviewed and reported upon as part of the CFO's annual oversight evaluation over the next couple of years to document reclamation success.



(Differential Settling Features and Designed Wetlands at the Coteau Freedom Mine)

D. Post-Mine Land Use Changes

North Dakota's reclamation law requires that lands disturbed by surface mining be restored to a condition capable of supporting the uses which it was capable of supporting prior to mining, or a higher or better use if approved by the PSC. During oversight discussions, concerns were raised that mines in the State could use the permit revision process allowed by the North Dakota reclamation program to make post-mine land use changes that would preclude among other things, the replacement of water resources on the new end land use without involvement or notice to the public. North Dakota's mine revision process requires public notification and opportunity for involvement only for "significant" permit revisions.

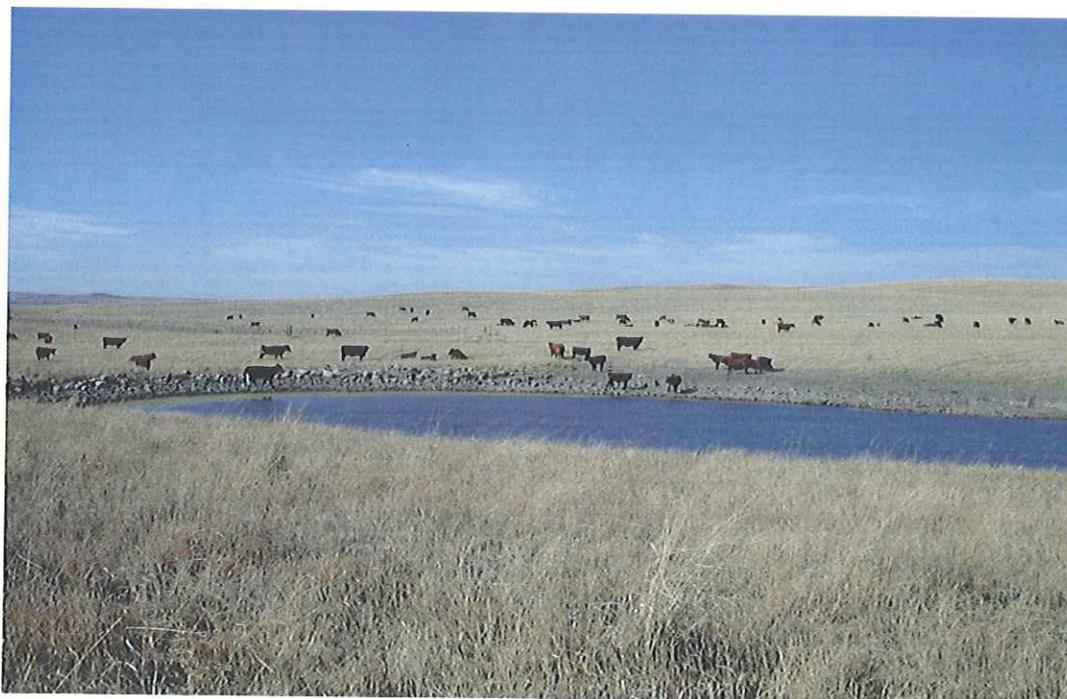
All permit revisions that propose a land use change from agricultural to any other land use category are considered significant and trigger the public involvement and notification process required by the North Dakota program. However, land use changes within the agriculture category (i.e. from grazing land to cropland) may not be significant.

The PSC determines significance by evaluating the size of the tract proposed for change, the type of land use proposed and the affect the proposed change has to the land owner. In some cases, the landowner may request a land use change to better benefit the post-mine farming practices proposed for a specific tract to improve or integrate the tract into his farming operation.

Not all land use changes submitted to the PSC are accepted or approvable. The PSC not only compares the pre-mine conditions and capability of a tract of land to the proposed exchange, but also considers other factors like slope steepness and available soil when determining the feasibility of a proposed land use change. Marginal conditions for the proposed end use will probably not be considered.

Staff from the PSC and OSM reviewed the pool of revisions submitted to the PSC since 2000 that had anything to do with land use changes. Sample revisions within this pool were evaluated to determine the scope of land use change and the opportunities available for public involvement. Our review of the land use exchanges in North Dakota this century (since 2000) indicate that:

- 1) North Dakota's program regarding land use exchange is effective and being implemented properly,
- 2) The land use exchange and permit revision process are not being used to side-step reclamation responsibilities or favor any one type of end use for the land over another,
- 3) The size and scope of the land use changes in North Dakota are not significant in light of the total number of acres permitted in the state,
- 4) Land use exchanges within the agricultural category appear to balance out and reflect the pre-mine conditions, and
- 5) The public is being properly notified and involved in the land use change process.



(Grasslands with stock dam at the Coteau Freedom Mine)

APPENDIX A

Tabular Summaries of Data Pertaining to Mining, Reclamation and Program Administration

These tables represent data pertinent to mining operations, State and Federal regulatory activities within North Dakota. They also summarize funds provided by OSM and the North Dakota staffing. Unless otherwise specified, the reporting period for the data contained in all tables is the 2006 evaluation year (July 1, 2005– June 30, 2006). Additional data used by OSM in its evaluation of North Dakota's performance is available for review in the evaluation files maintained by the Casper Field Office



(Reclaimed woodland and pond at the Glenharold Mine)

APPENDIX B

Casper Field Office Response to North Dakota's Comments

Most of the comments or corrections made to the report by North Dakota were editorial in nature, with the exception of suggested language to Section VI. OSM Assistance. The State suggested additional information regarding participation of PSC staff in OSM training courses.

The Casper Field Office agrees that the suggested information added value to the report and included the information in the last paragraph of Section VI.